

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for enabling cellular instant messaging comprising:  
receiving a telemetry message that indicates the availability on a cellular network of a  
first cellular phone;  
storing information regarding the first cellular phone in an instant messaging  
database, wherein the information comprises a buddy list; and  
transmitting a browser alert to one or more relevant buddies identified in the buddy  
list.

10 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the telemetry message is a remote feature  
activation message.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the telemetry message is a registration  
notification message.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the telemetry message further indicates that a  
cellular phone has been powered on.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the instant messaging database is maintained  
20 by an instant messaging partner.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the information further comprises a customer's profile for the cellular phone.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more relevant buddies comprise one or more cellular phones that have the first cellular phone on the buddy list.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more relevant buddies comprise buddies on the first cellular phone's buddy list.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more relevant buddies comprise computers connected to the Internet.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising utilizing a short message service to deliver text messages using the cellular phone.

11. A method for enabling cellular instant messaging comprising:  
transmitting, from a first cellular phone, a telemetry message that indicates the first cellular phone's availability on a cellular network;  
receiving a browser alert, on the first cellular phone, indicating availability of buddies on a buddy list of the first cellular phone.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the telemetry message is a remote feature activation message.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the telemetry message is a registration notification message.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein the telemetry message is transmitted when the first cellular phone is powered on.

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15. A system for enabling cellular instant messaging comprising:

(a) an instant messaging database configured to maintain information regarding a first cellular phone, wherein the information comprises a buddy list;

(b) a cellular network; and

(b) a server configured to:

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(i) receive a telemetry message from a cellular phone that indicates the availability of the first cellular phone on the cellular network; and

(ii) transmit a browser alert to one or more relevant buddies identified in the buddy list.

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16. ~~The system of claim 15 wherein the telemetry message is a remote feature activation message.~~

5 17. The system of claim 15 wherein the telemetry message is a registration notification message.

18. The system of claim 15 wherein the telemetry message further indicates that a cellular phone has been powered on.

10 19. The system of claim 15 further comprising an instant messaging partner that is configured to maintain the instant messaging database.

15 20. The system of claim 15 wherein the information further comprises a customer's profile for the cellular phone.

21. The system of claim 15 wherein the one or more relevant buddies comprise one or more cellular phones that have the first cellular phone on the buddy list.

20 22. The system of claim 15 wherein the one or more relevant buddies comprise buddies on the first cellular phone's buddy list.

23. The system of claim 15 wherein the one or more relevant buddies comprise computers connected to the Internet.

24. The system of claim 15 wherein the server is further configured to utilize a short message service to deliver text messages using the cellular phone.

25. A system for enabling cellular instant messaging comprising a first cellular phone configured to:  
transmit a telemetry message that indicates the first cellular phone's availability on a cellular network;  
receive a browser alert indicating availability of buddies on a buddy list of the first cellular phone.

26. The system of claim 25 wherein the telemetry message is a remote feature activation message.

27. The system of claim 25 wherein the telemetry message is a registration notification message.

28. The system of claim 25 wherein the telemetry message is transmitted when the first cellular phone is powered on.

29. An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer hardware device and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer hardware device to perform a method for enabling cellular instant messaging, the method comprising:

receiving a telemetry message that indicates the availability on a cellular network of a first cellular phone;

storing information regarding the first cellular phone in an instant messaging database, wherein the information comprises a buddy list; and

transmitting a browser alert to one or more relevant buddies identified in the buddy list.

30. The article of manufacture of claim 29 wherein the telemetry message is a remote feature activation message.

31. The article of manufacture of claim 29 wherein the telemetry message is a registration notification message.

32. The article of manufacture of claim 29 wherein the telemetry message further indicates that a cellular phone has been powered on.

33. The article of manufacture of claim 29 wherein the instant messaging database is maintained by an instant messaging partner.

5 34. The article of manufacture of claim 29 wherein the information further comprises a customer's profile for the cellular phone.

35. The article of manufacture of claim 29 wherein the one or more relevant buddies comprise one or more cellular phones that have the first cellular phone on the buddy list.

10 36. The article of manufacture of claim 29 wherein the one or more relevant buddies comprise buddies on the first cellular phone's buddy list.

15 37. The article of manufacture of claim 29 wherein the one or more relevant buddies comprise computers connected to the Internet.

20 38. The article of manufacture of claim 29, the method further comprising utilizing a short message service to deliver text messages using the cellular phone.

39. An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer hardware device and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer hardware device to perform a method for enabling cellular instant messaging, the method comprising:

transmitting, from a first cellular phone, a telemetry message that indicates the first cellular phone's availability on a cellular network;

receiving a browser alert, on the first cellular phone, indicating availability of buddies on a buddy list of the first cellular phone.

10 40. The article of manufacture of claim 39 wherein the telemetry message is a remote feature activation message.

41. The article of manufacture of claim 39 wherein the telemetry message is a registration notification message.

42. The article of manufacture of claim 39 wherein the telemetry message is transmitted when the first cellular phone is powered on.